



Healthy Homes
Healthy Children

Inside this Issue

June 2006

- | | |
|----------|---|
| 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- RI CLPPP initiates quarterly lead screening reports for providers without internet access |
| 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- HEALTH will hold informal hearing on proposed regulations- Judge fines two RI companies \$220,000 for violating lead paint disclosure requirement- Funds available for lead-safe home repairs |

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Lead Update

Attention Health Care Providers! Beginning June 2006, the RI CLPPP Will Provide Lead Screening Reports For Practices Without Internet Access

KIDSNET participating providers have access to a variety of reports to identify children in their practice who are due for immunizations or lead screening. Each practice can generate these reports using the KIDSNET website (<https://kidsnet.health.ri.gov> under "Practice Reports").

The lead screening report is an excellent tool to monitor screenings and/or schedule required tests and enhance lead screening rates for your practice. Beginning in June 2006 and on a quarterly basis thereafter, the RI Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (RI CLPPP) will send you a report of children in your practice between 15 and 72 months of age who appear to never have been screened for lead. Staff from the RI CLPPP will review each report to verify that it is complete and error-free. Missing data and possible data errors that you encounter on the report need to be reported to us as soon as possible.

Continued use of this report is essential to our goal of ensuring timely lead screenings for every child in Rhode Island. For questions regarding the use of the report, to report possible errors, or for additional information, please contact Jodie Garnetto in the Lead Program, at 222-4634, or Jodie.Garnetto@health.ri.gov.

PRODUCT WATCH

The following products may contain a dangerous amount of lead:

- **Juicy Couture Children's Jewelry** - Voluntarily recalled on 5/10/06
 - Store(s) where sold: Nationwide Retailers
 - Manufacturer: Liz Claiborne Inc., of North Bergen, N.J.
 - For more information, including pictures of products, visit: www.juicycouture.com/recall
- **20th Century Fox DVD Metal Charms** - Voluntarily recalled on 5/5/06
 - Store(s) where sold: Retail stores that sell DVDs, Web retailers, and direct mail.
 - For more information, including a list of DVD titles, visit: www.dvdcharmrecall.com

HEALTH Will Hold Informal Hearing on Proposed Rules and Regulations for Lead Poisoning Prevention

The Department of Health has received extensive comments on the draft **Rules and Regulations for Lead Poisoning Prevention** posted on May 11, 2006. After review of the concerns regarding proposed changes to the regulations, the Department will **not be filing** the regulations as currently proposed. The meeting scheduled for Friday, June 30, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. in the Health Policy Forum of the Cannon building (on the lower level) will continue as planned with a more informal format. You are invited to come and present your views on the proposed changes. Another public hearing will be scheduled before any proposed changes become final.

Any questions regarding the public meeting or proposed regulations should be directed to Patricia Raymond, RN, in the Division of Family Health: 401-222-2312 or Patricia.Raymond@health.ri.gov.

Judge's Ruling Confirms EPA Fine for Lead Paint Violations by Two Rhode Island Companies

Following a three-day hearing, an Administrative Law Judge recently found that two Rhode Island property management companies, Topik Enterprises and Lead and Asbestos Encasement Designs (LAED), violated federal lead paint disclosure requirements, and assessed a total of \$222,200 in fines. The Federal Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Disclosure Rule requires landlords, property management companies, real estate agencies, and sellers to inform potential lessees and purchasers of the presence and potential presence of lead-based paint and lead-based paint hazards in pre-1978 housing.

"Lead poisoning is a serious health threat for children in New England because so much of our housing is older and may contain lead paint," said Robert W. Varney, regional administrator for EPA's New England office. "It is critically important that renters and buyers get the information they need to protect themselves and their children from potential exposure to lead paint. This case demonstrates that EPA will aggressively enforce the lead paint laws."

The Rhode Island Department of Health worked closely with the EPA during the investigation of Topik and LAED, after it learned that four children had been lead poisoned at properties located in Woonsocket owned by the two companies. The Rhode Island Department of Health had issued four abatement orders regarding the properties, and both companies failed to comply with these orders. For the violations, a civil penalty of \$79,200 was assessed against Topik Enterprises, and a civil penalty of \$143,000 was assessed against LAED. Roy S. Topik, now of Florida, is the president of both companies.

An owner, who has been cited by EPA for Lead Disclosure Rule violations, may have the option of entering into a Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP). A SEP is an environmentally beneficial project that a violator voluntarily agrees to perform as part of a settlement of an enforcement action. The SEP would be conducted in the State where the violation occurred in lieu of paying the civil penalty. Typically, the SEP settlement would be less costly in order to provide incentive. The RI Department of Health has submitted suggestions for environmental projects to EPA for Topik Enterprises and LAED.

For more information on the federal lead-based paint disclosure rule, please see:

<http://www.epa.gov/ne/enforcement/leadpaint/index.html>

Funding Continues to Help Property Owners Make Lead-Safe Repairs

A recent edition of the Providence Journal featured the *Woonsocket Safety First!* Home Repair Cost Assistance Program. The article did an excellent job of highlighting how useful our city and state grant and loan programs are in assisting property owners statewide. The RI Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program would like to remind community agencies, health care providers, and property owners that funding is available across the state to help property owners make lead-safe repairs on their homes. There are three city Lead Hazard Reduction Programs in Providence, Warwick, Woonsocket and a statewide program available through Rhode Island Housing. To learn more about programs in your area call the Housing Resources Commission at 401-222-5323 or visit www.hrc.ri.gov.

A full copy of the Providence Journal article is available at

http://www.projo.com/projohomes/content/projo_20060521_21woon.1165ec0.html